



All paddlefish anglers, regardless of age, must purchase the proper prerequisite conservation license, fishing license and paddlefish tag (see License Requirements). All licenses must be in the angler's immediate possession while fishing. It is illegal to loan tags or use another angler's tags.

Daily and Possession Limits

1 paddlefish per season per angler. Anglers may select only one of the following areas, **and may only fish in the area selected:**

- Upper Missouri River, upstream from Fort Peck Dam to Fort Benton - white tag
- Yellowstone River or Lower Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam - yellow tag
- Fort Peck Dredge Cuts (west of Park Grove Bridge and Nelson Dredge) on the lower Missouri River - blue tag

General Paddlefish Regulations for ALL Areas

- Each angler must cast for, hook and reel in his or her own paddlefish. It is unlawful for another person to do so.
- **Hook size is limited to 8/0 and smaller for all paddlefish snagging.**
- Gaffs, no longer than 4.5 feet in length, may be used to land a paddlefish that will be tagged. Any tag locked shut prior to attachment to a paddlefish shall be void and is not replaceable. Any altered or modified tag shall be void. *Voided tags are not replaceable.*
- It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish or part of one. If anglers cut up a paddlefish, they must keep the part of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) where the tag is attached and sealed to the fish.
- Tags must remain with processed fish until consumption.
- **Tagged paddlefish must be removed from the river by the end of the day, 9:00p.m.**
- Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam and Yellowstone River: The Montana nonprofit corporation designated to accept paddlefish egg donations for the caviar market is authorized to transport lawfully taken and tagged paddlefish donated by the angler in accordance with guidelines developed and implemented through the annual MOU. Paddlefish taken on the Yellowstone River between the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge at Glendive and the North Dakota state line and donated by the angler at the Intake FAS or at the Sidney Bridge FAS are eligible for transport by designated individuals.

MISSOURI RIVER

Entire river

- Snagging: it is illegal to snag for fish other than paddlefish on the Missouri River downstream from Fort Benton.

Upstream from Fort Peck Dam to Fort Benton

The paddlefish fishery is managed under an annual harvest target not to exceed 500 fish. FWP may close the season within 24 hours notice in any year if it appears that the harvest target may be exceeded. Catch-and-release fishing would continue for the duration of the season. Call the Glasgow FWP office at 406-228-3700 for current information on harvest status.

- Paddlefish snagging: ***open to harvesting paddlefish May 1 -- June 15 (unless closed earlier by FWP) from 6 AM to 9 PM daily. An unused white paddlefish tag is required to harvest a paddlefish. All paddlefish captured must either be tagged and kept, or released immediately. Gaffs may be used to harvest a paddlefish, but not for fish that will be released.*** See Eastern District Standard Regulations for additional important paddlefish information.
- Catch-and-release: snagging for paddlefish is allowed from ***May 1 to June 15.*** Proof of purchase of a white paddlefish tag on your fishing license is required for catch-and-release fishing. ***All paddlefish must be released immediately and may not be gaffed or lifted out of the water. Captured paddlefish must remain at least partially submerged at all times.***

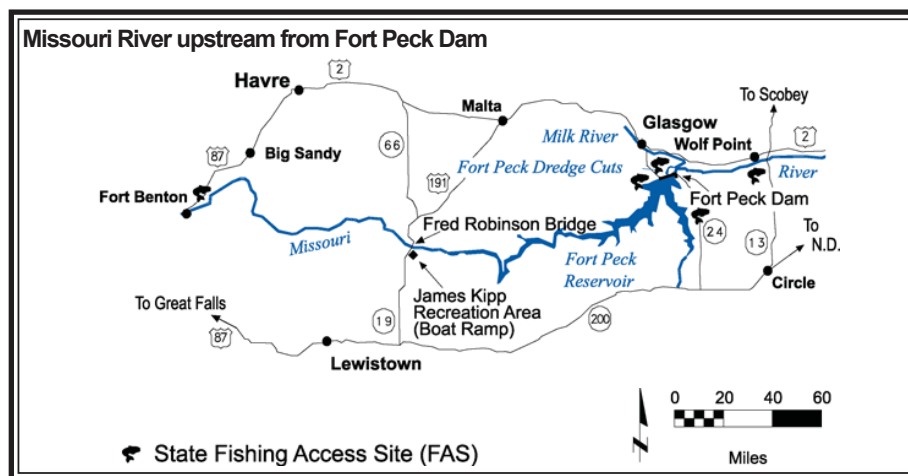
Downstream from Fort Peck Dam

The paddlefish fishery is managed under a harvest target in conjunction with North Dakota. Montana has set regulations so that annual harvest will not exceed 1000 fish. FWP may close the season within 24 hours notice in any year if it appears that the harvest target may be exceeded, and/or immediately at the Intake FAS (***Intake Diversion downstream to Cottonwood Creek***) when 800 paddlefish have been harvested at Intake FAS. Call the Miles City FWP office at 406-234-0900 for current information on harvest status.

- Paddlefish snagging: open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from May 15 through June 30 (unless closed earlier by FWP) from 6 AM to 9 PM daily. An unused yellow paddlefish tag is required to ***fish for*** paddlefish on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays or Saturdays. The tag must be properly placed on the first paddlefish caught and landed. It is unlawful to release a paddlefish. See Eastern District Standard Regulations for additional important paddlefish information.
- * ***Catch-and-release: not permitted for paddlefish at any time.***

FORT PECK DREDGE CUTS (west of Park Grove Bridge and Nelson Dredge) ____

- Bow and Arrow: open **July 1** through August 31 for paddlefish. An unused blue paddlefish tag is required to fish for paddlefish.
- Combined Trout: 2 rainbow trout daily and in possession.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 2 lines with 2 hooks per line on open water and 6 lines with 6 hooks per line through the ice.
- Snagging: it is illegal to snag for fish other than paddlefish on the Missouri River downstream from Fort Benton to the North Dakota border.



YELLOWSTONE RIVER

The paddlefish fishery is managed under a harvest target in conjunction with North Dakota. Montana has set regulations so that annual harvest will not exceed 1000 fish. FWP may close the season within 24 hours notice in any year if it appears that the harvest target may be exceeded, and/or immediately at the Intake FAS (***Intake Diversion downstream to Cottonwood Creek***) when 800 paddlefish have been harvested at Intake. Call the Miles City FWP office at 406-234-0900 for current information on harvest status.

I-90 Bridge at Billings to the mouth of the Bighorn River

- Combined Trout: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 18 inches, includes cutthroat trout.

I-90 Bridge at Billings to Huntley Diversion Dam

- Hook and Line: 2 lines with 2 hooks per line all year.

I-90 Bridge at Cartersville Diversion Dam at Forsyth

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 1 may be a sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 2 may be sauger. All fish must be kept whole, gills and entrails may be removed, until you are off the water and done fishing for the day. See Statewide Regulations for transport requirements.

Downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River, not including Intake Fishing Access Site

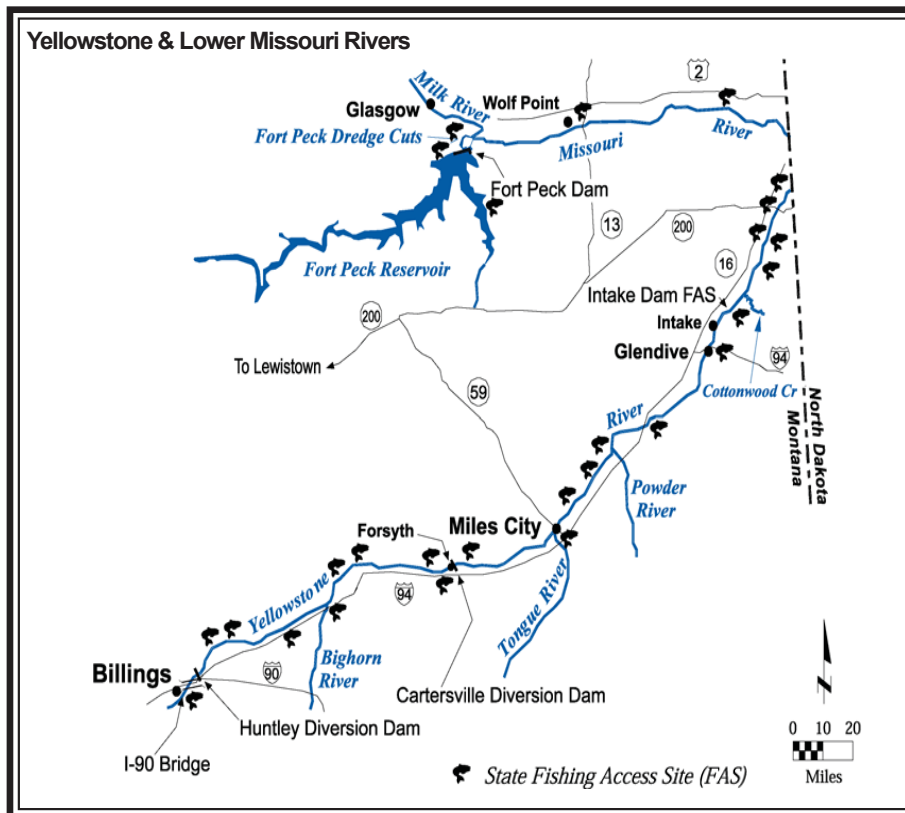
- Snagging: It is illegal to snag for fish, other than paddlefish, downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River on the Yellowstone River, or downstream from Fort Peck Dam on the Missouri River.
- Paddlefish Snagging: open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays or Saturdays from May 15 through June 30 (unless closed earlier by FWP) from 6 AM to 9 PM daily. An unused yellow paddlefish tag is required to **fish for** paddlefish. The tag must be properly placed on the first paddlefish caught and landed. It is unlawful to release a paddlefish. See Eastern District Standard Regulations for additional important paddlefish information.
- **Catch-and-release for paddlefish is not permitted at any time.**

Intake Fishing Access Site (Intake Diversion downstream to Cottonwood Creek)

- Paddlefish Snagging: see Paddlefish Snagging for downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River.
- Catch-and-release: anglers may snag paddlefish on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays during the season but all paddlefish must be immediately released. Evidence of a current year yellow paddlefish tag must be in possession to fish for paddlefish. Gafts may not be used to land a paddlefish, **fish may not be lifted out of the water, and paddlefish must remain at least partially submerged in water at all times. Following the harvest closure, catch and release will be allowed for 10 consecutive days or through June 30, whichever is reached first.**
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 2 lines with 2 hooks per line all year.

Intake Diversion Dam to about 1/4 mile downstream as posted

- Snagging: see regulations for downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River.
- Closed May 15 through June 30 to fishing or snagging from boats/vessels.



To Tag a Paddlefish—

- Cut a small hole in the base of the dorsal fin (see illustration).
- Insert the metal loop portion of the plastic self-locking tag through this hole and seal tag.
- The metal loop must penetrate the fish so as to make the plastic self-locking tag non-removable when tag is sealed.
- The plastic self-locking tag must be completely sealed so it cannot be reopened.

Any fish not tagged in accordance with these instructions shall be considered to be untagged. You must have your conservation and paddlefish license in your possession to fish for or/and take paddlefish.

Tag Use



IMPORTANT: Do not seal your self-locking tag prior to attachment to fish. They cannot be reopened and will be void if sealed prior to attachment.



Handling and Transporting Legally Taken Fish

While a person is fishing, or while on the water or on the ice:

- All fish in possession must be visibly identifiable to species.
- For a species of fish where size limits apply, all fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, fins and tail attached. Gills and entrails may be removed.
- Fish may be dressed and filleted for immediate consumption.
- Fish may be dressed and filleted for transport to your permanent residence, unless size limits apply, under the following conditions:
 - All fish can be counted and identified. Two fillets will be counted as one fish. If the catch is frozen prior to transport, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted.
 - Salmonids (trout, salmon, grayling, char and whitefish): the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.
 - Non-salmonids: a minimum of one inch by one inch square shoulder patch of skin with scales must remain attached to each fillet for identification.
- In areas where it is necessary to distinguish between sauger and walleye, fish must be kept whole for identification while on the water (see District Exceptions). Gills and entrails may be removed. Sauger and walleye may be filleted unless size limits apply, only when you are off the water and done fishing for the day.

Possession limit means the number of fish that you may possess at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved. It is illegal to preserve fish (salted, smoked, dried, canned, or otherwise preserved) before taking them to your permanent residence (the physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence) unless those fish can be counted. Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, tents or storage/freezer lockers do not qualify as permanent residences. No person may sell or take for the purpose of sale any fish except as authorized in commercial fishing regulations.

Daily limit means the number of fish you may legally take during a calendar day. It is unlawful to exceed the standard daily limit unless the regulations for the water body where you are fishing specify a different limit. "Legally taken" means fish caught and not immediately released alive. Where catch and release is allowed, fish released alive are considered not taken. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the daily limit of the person originally hooking the fish, even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit. You may possess the daily limit allowed only for the body of water on which you are fishing.

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